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**Syngrapha parilis** Hbn. (Pl. VIII, Fig. 15.)

My specimens identified at British Museum. I am not sure whether the type of *parilis* is there or not, though from their labeling of my material I should think it is. The type of *quadriplaga* Walker, is there, however, and is identical.

In closing this paper I would add but a few words in regard to separation of species. A great many are very closely allied, and single specimens of two species might be supposed to be identical, the differences being so slight. A study of good series, however, shows that the differences, though slight, are constant, and therefore reliable. The same is true of the genitalia, which must be noted very closely, and I am told that this is also true of larvæ, species feeding together, and looking alike, yet emerging as distinct forms.

One of the seemingly slight divergences which is absolutely reliable in separating species I will mention. Especially in the *rectangula* group, species may often be known by their secondaries, even when the primaries are so worn as to make identification doubtful. Broadly speaking there are two patterns: in one the base of the wing is a dirty yellowish, the border being blackish. These we may call "bordered." In the other, the base of the wing is tinged with a lighter shade of the border color, thus producing an oblique band or bar of the yellowish shade, crossing the wing centrally. These are the "banded." Of the "bordered" forms *rectangula* is a good example, while *vaccinii* is a conspicuous example of the "banded."

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## NOTES ON CALOCAMPA WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES.

BY RODRIGUES OTTOLENGUI.

(PLATE X.)

Under this genus, Grote in his check list, 1882, listed three species, *nupera*, *cineritia*, and *curvimacula*. In Smith's list, 1891, only two names are added to the above, *brucei* and *thoracica*, the latter having been described by Putman-Cramer as a variety of *cineritia*. I undertook a closer scrutiny of the genus because of the fact that I apparently had in my collection more forms than there were names in the latest list, excepting *brucei*, of which however I had access to the type. I believed that two distinct forms were mixed under *cineritia*, as now

appears to be true, though not quite as I at first supposed. I had two specimens, one exceedingly light and one so dark as to appear specifically distinct. These extremes are both figured. I began acquiring material and soon had a long series, twelve fine specimens being now before me. These show a gradation from the lighter to the darkest form, though the darkest is still considerably distinct from the next in the series. Examination of the genitalia showed however that throughout the series there is absolutely no variation, an interesting corroboration of Professor Smith's contention that variations in the genitalia will separate species, but not varieties of the same species, however dissimilar the variety may be from the type.

This study of the genitalia however disclosed the fact that *thoracica* is not a variety of *cineritia*, as it has been described and listed, but is a distinct species. This I am told has been corroborated by breeding, the larval stages of the two being also distinct.

The figures on the plate are from a woodcut, the insects having first been photographed on the wood block. They may be considered authentic. *Nupera* is from a specimen carefully compared with the type. *Brucei* is from the type itself. *Thoracica* is from a specimen in Mr. Doll's collection found with the type, labeled by Mr. Cramer and agreeing absolutely with the type. *Brillians*, the new species herewith described, is from the type.

***Calocampa brillians*, sp. nov. (Pl. X, Fig. 3.)**

Resembling *cineritia* and *thoracica*, but overcast with purplish and mahogany shadows. Head and collar mahogany color. Thorax dark brown. Patagiae, pearl gray towards the base of primaries. Orbicular and reniform adjacent. The former ringed with a geminate line, the outermost heavy, black. The reniform outlined heavily in black at the lower inner curve, next to the orbicular. Centrally a pale crescent, at the inner curve of which is a bright mahogany splotch, which is the beginning of an orange-colored dash extending outwardly to a wave of the s. t. line when it is sharply outlined by a black line outwardly and towards the lower margin of the dash. The t. a. line is waved or dentate with second or geminate line carrying one long outcurve towards the orbicular. T. p. line oblique, waved, inconspicuous. S. t. line with a sharp notch near apex, then slightly waved, oblique, conspicuous against the outer border of pearly gray. The s. t. line carries the black dash already mentioned. The costa is black with three white dots between the reniform region and the junction of the s. t. line. Above the orbicular and reniform and as far outward as the s. t. line the area is mahogany brown. The base is pearly gray and the median space the same, overcast with smoke. Secondaries, concolorous, mahogany brown, with fringes lighter. Expands, 45 mm.

*Habitat*: Maine, New Hampshire.

*Type*: Male in the collection of the author.

Described from three specimens. The type is absolutely perfect, taken in Maine. A co-type, labeled Webster, N. H., is a female in Professor Smith's collection. There is more suffusion, and less of the mahogany tinge, either sexual or because the specimen is older. A second co-type is in the Brooklyn Institute, found in Dr. McKnight's collection, labelled New Hampshire; a male, and though probably an old specimen, is only a little less brilliant than the type, with which, however, it agrees in all essential features.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE X.

- |                                       |                                   |        |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Fig. 1. <i>Calocampa nupta</i> .      | Fig. 5. <i>Calocampa brucei</i> . |        |
| Fig. 2. " <i>curvimacula</i> .        | Fig. 6. " <i>cinerita</i> .       | Light. |
| Fig. 3. " <i>brillians</i> , sp. nov. | Fig. 7. " "                       | Dark.  |
| Fig. 4. " <i>thoracica</i> .          |                                   |        |

### A GENERIC SUBDIVISION OF THE GENUS *PLUSIA*.

BY HARRISON G. DYAR.

Dr. Ottolengui has asked me to review the species of *Plusia* and refer them to generic groups. I have done so with the following result. The generic term *Phytometra* is credited to Haworth by Guenée, but I have been unable to consult a copy of the *Lepidoptera Britannica*, as there is none to be found in Washington, Philadelphia or Boston. Agassiz's *Nomenclator* credits this genus to Stephens, and if this is correct, the term will cause no trouble, falling as a synonym.

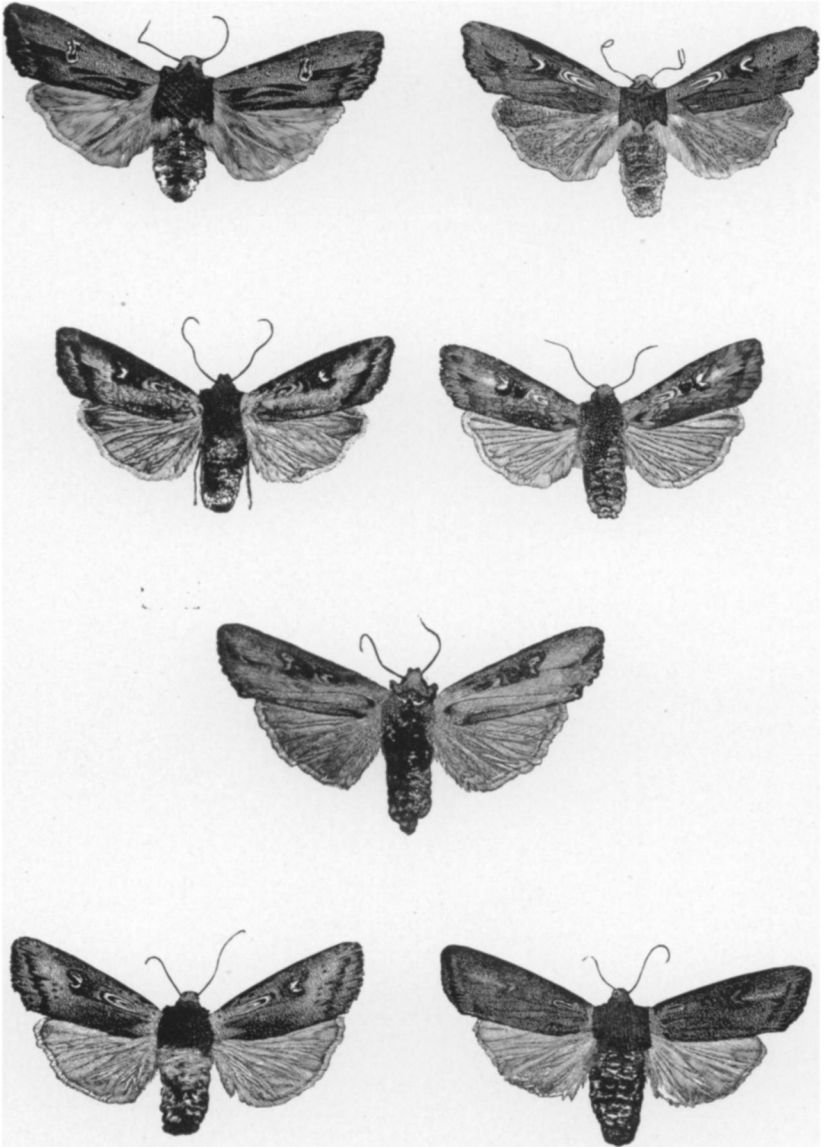
*Plusia accurata* Hy. Edw., must be entirely excluded. The hind wings have the median vein "trifid," the male antennæ are pectinated and the palpi reach only about half way up the front. Dr. Barnes kindly communicated to me examples of this rare species.

*Plusia* is a typical Noctuid genus, belonging to the "quadrifinæ." Tongue developed, eyes naked, cell of hind wings normal. The thorax has a large spreading tuft and the abdomen is tufted basally. Front without prominent tubercle; ♂ antennæ ciliate. The following groups, some of which are of generic rank, may be recognized.

Palpi considerably exceeding the vertex of head.

Palpi upturned, evenly haired, third joint large, blade-like.

External margin even ..... **Polychrysia.**



*Calocampa nupera.*

“ *brillians.*

“ *cinerita.*

*Calocampa brucei.*

*Calocampa curvimarula.*

“ *thoracica.*

“ *cinerita* (dark form).